



# DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## **SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY**

Ascension of the Lord (Year A)

May 21st, 2023 (Broadcast for FB Livestream)

**Hearing assistance devices are available. Please ask a greeter for a receiver**

(\*) Please rise in body or spirit as you are able.

## **Gathering in God's Name**

### **WELCOME**

### **OPENING VOLUNTARY**

Chorale Prelude on "Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies "

Hans-Arnold Metzger

***(Please meditate quietly during the Opening Voluntary.)***

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP (PEOPLE READ BOLD)**

L: Surely the dead go on living—

**P: And still**

L: We long for those who have gone  
in the form that we knew them—

**P: A laugh recognizable, an embrace familiar.**

L: The power of the Holy Spirit is her longing for intimacy—

**P: To know and to be known. To love and to be loved.**

L: And so it is with us— We long, we cherish, we embrace, we yearn.

**P: We miss those who part with us,**

**And we, courageously, go on living.**

### **\*HYMN 662**

"Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies"

CALL TO CONFESSION (PEOPLE READ BOLD)

**P: Mysterious Compassion, we long to honor each other's differences, and yet we do not always make room for the many ways to live a life. We want to protect each other's right to self-determination. At the same time, we desire to be united in purpose. We desire soulful relationships across differences. Guide us in wisdom as we ebb and flow between the personal and the collective. Unite our individual longing with the longings of Interdependent Love. Amen.**

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: Hear these words of assurance and Good News, that God so loved the world Christ was sent not to condemn us, but to save us. Beloved, you are called to be free. Serve one another humbly therefore, for the entirety of the law is summed up in one word, in this, "*Love your neighbor as yourself.*"

PASSING OF THE PEACE (PEOPLE READ BOLD)

L: May the peace of Christ be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

AFFIRMATION OF GOD IN THE GATHERING

HYMN 399

"God Welcomes All"

God welcomes all, strangers and friends;

God's love is strong and it never ends. (3x)

***(Please return to your seats when the music begins.)***

# **Encountering the Living Word of God**

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

Acts 1:6-14

**L: The Word of the Lord. P: Thanks be to God.**

## **SERMON**

“Now What?”

Rev. John Booth

## **Responding to God’s Word & Call**

### **PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE & PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**L: We are held in tender connection by the God of the Universe—  
With the living and with the dead,  
With those different from us and those alike,  
With the Holy Spirit and our own hearts.  
Together we pray for:**

(the people lift their prayers aloud)

The Divine longs for intimacy, and we are Their Beloveds.  
Waiting on and working towards a new life, we pray...

### **THE LORD’S PRAYER (UNISON)**

**P: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in  
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory  
forever. Amen.**

## COLLECTION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

L: Chilean poet, Pablo Neruda writes: “I intend to confuse things, to unite them, make them new-born, intermingle them, undress them, until the light of the world has the unity of the ocean, a generous wholeness, a fragrance alive and crackling.” We bring forth our offerings and gifts today—intermingling what we have for the sake of alive, crackling, generous abundance.

> To offer your financial support to the ministry and mission of DPC:

- Use our mobile app by texting “dpchurch” to 73256
- Visit [www.dpchurch.com](http://www.dpchurch.com) and click "Click here for online giving”

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM     “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Might Gates ” Melchior Vulpius

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits;  
The King of Kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.

Oh, blest the land, the city blest, where Christ the Ruler is confessed!  
Oh, happy hearts and happy homes to whom this King of Triumph  
comes!

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart  
From earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love  
and joy.

George Weissel, trans. by Catherine Winkworth

DOXOLOGY #606 “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION (UNISON)

**P: Orient us towards new life, O Navigating God. Pry the ways of power-over from our hands and give us instead the tools of compassion, solidarity, and imagination. Bless our offerings to way-making towards life. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INVITATIONS

PRAYER FOR TRANSITION BLESSINGS (UNISON)

**P: Oh God Who Labors on Our Behalf,  
Labor alongside us now as you bring this next, new and beautiful stage in the life of DPC to fruition. We are pushing our way to the next hopeful stages. Help us wait with patience and anticipation, as you teach us to prepare during Advent. Guide our rootedness and discernment, as we practiced in Lent. May we rejoice in these moments we can see the Resurrected Jesus in one another, right now. And help us continue to take up the call for working and witnessing, to be the ministers of your church in all seasons of life. We know you are bringing someone incredible to our table soon. Bless the search committee, bless the leadership, bless the one to come, bless us all. Amen.**

\*HYMN 268

“Crown Him with Many Crowns ”

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION (PEOPLE READ BOLD)

L: Go forth with renewed hope,  
Trusting in the transforming love of God.  
God does not leave things as they are;  
With God, all things are made new.  
All creation responds to God’s presence;  
The world is alive with possibility.  
We open ourselves to this truth;  
With Christ, we trust our whole lives to this power.  
Death will never conquer love.  
Christ is risen!  
And may all God’s people say,

**P: Alleluia! Amen!**

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Chorale Prelude on a Melody by Melchior Vulpus

Healey Willan

***(Please remain quietly seated during the Closing Voluntary.)***

Prayers by enfleshed, adapted by Rev. Larissa Romero.  
Benediction adapted from the words of Rev. Jeanyne Sletton, originally published on “Process & Faith.” Process & Faith, [processandfaith.org/](http://processandfaith.org/). Music used with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-736957. All rights reserved.



# Pentecost

## May 28



*May the Holy Spirit fill your heart with boundless love.*

Next Sunday is Pentecost Sunday, which marks the birthday of the Church! Traditionally we decorate our churches in red, and **wear red to worship**. We do this as a tangible symbol of the joy and fire of the Holy Spirit. This reminder of an invisible reality is powerful to our imaginations. Join us as we celebrate the Spirit next Sunday!



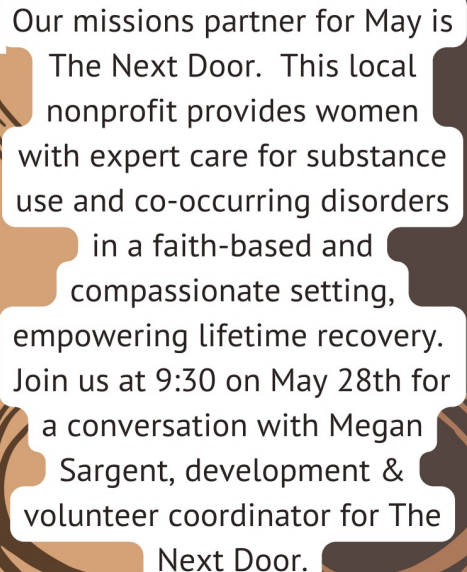
## COMMUNITY CHAT

Megan Sargent

**The Next Door**

Sunday, May 28th

9:30 am



Our missions partner for May is The Next Door. This local nonprofit provides women with expert care for substance use and co-occurring disorders in a faith-based and compassionate setting, empowering lifetime recovery. Join us at 9:30 on May 28th for a conversation with Megan Sargent, development & volunteer coordinator for The Next Door.

# Children's Lesson: The Holy Spirit



May 28th  
9:30am

Next Sunday will conclude the children's Sunday School programming for the 2022-2023 school year! Summer fun is upon us!

*Congratulations Graduates of 2023!*

Please let us know if you have graduated or are graduating this year. We would like to celebrate you in a special prayer on Pentecost!

Email [info@dpchurch.com](mailto:info@dpchurch.com) by May 25th, 2023





## DONATION-BASED PERFORMANCE IN THE CHAPEL



Kimayo

MY QUEER FAITH

5/25 6:30 PM

Singer-songwriter Kimayo will perform at DPC on May 25th, as part of her "My Queer Faith" tour. This is a donation-based event. Doors will open at 6:00 pm with the concert scheduled from 6:30 to 7:30 pm in the DPC Chapel. There will be an opportunity to meet Kimayo and purchase her merchandise after the performance. Email [events@dpchurch.com](mailto:events@dpchurch.com) for more information.

### **Event Description:**

*Kimayo opens up about her life, personal struggles, and overcoming hardships. From coming to terms with and celebrating her sexuality to wrestling with her faith, she offers her experience with humility and vulnerability. Through poignant songs and narrative, Kimayo invites us all to welcome firm and love unconditionally.*

### **Trigger Warning:**

This concert is open to adults and mature teens with parental discretion as this event contains sensitive topics relating to physical and mental health.

Visit: [www.kimayomusic.com](http://www.kimayomusic.com) to learn more about Kimayo or listen to her music.



*Scan here to view DPC's online calendar  
& learn more about what we've got planned!*

## Kitchen Wish List

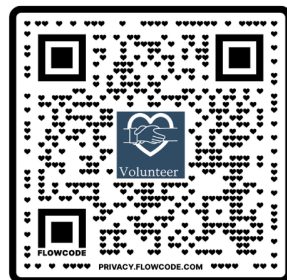
We need your help to gear up (literally) for our next season of ministry! If you can't make it downtown on a Saturday morning, there's another way you can get involved.

We have created a wish list of items we most need for our meal ministry. These are items that will reduce our costs and increase our efficiency. You can shop our online registry by scanning this QR code, visiting [dpchurch.com](http://dpchurch.com), or searching Downtown Presbyterian Church on Target's registry website.

Thank you helping equip us to  
serve our community.



# CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!



## Save the Date!



Our meal ministry will transition to the fellowship hall on June 10th. We are excited to reunite with familiar faces & meet new friends who will join us in service!

DPC will host an open house for our meal ministry volunteers on June 3rd from 10am-noon. A special blessing for our kitchen & fellowship hall will be offered at 11am. Complimentary parking provided.

Join us as we welcome our volunteer community back to DPC.

DPC offers complimentary parking for attendees in the SP+ garage at 147 4th Ave. North. The entrance to the garage is on 4th Ave. Take a ticket upon entering the garage and a DPC greeter will give you a voucher to use when exiting.

Parking tickets are validated for Sunday worship & Saturday morning's meal ministry.

**COMPLIMENTARY  
PARKING AT DPC**



## **OUR MISSION**

Gathering in the heart of Nashville, we are a community of disciples of Jesus Christ. We seek the welfare of the city as we seek the kingdom of God.

We are an historic church working to be a welcoming and inclusive congregation. Together we actively share God's grace and love through worship, education and service, and through being an active voice in promoting justice and peace in our community and the world.

## **OUR VALUES AND ETHOS**

- Belief in God's love and in Christ's ministry
- The desire to welcome and embrace everyone. No exceptions.
- Service to God, service to our neighbors
- God's gift of creativity

## **SESSION LEADERSHIP**

### **Class of 2023**

Tom Wills  
Samera Zavaro

### **Class of 2024**

Betty McConnell  
Denny Harris

### **Class of 2025**

John Booth  
Tara Herbert

## **THE CHURCH STAFF**

Rev. Larissa Romero, Interim Pastor  
Paulino Jarquin, Building Manager  
Rainwater Morehead, A/V Tech

Dr. William Taylor, Dir. of Music  
Michelle Noles, Temp. Office Manager

## **PARKING FOR DPC ATTENDEES**

Parking for Sunday worship is in the SP+ garage at **147 4th Ave. N.** The entrance is on 4th Avenue. Parking in this garage is complimentary on Sundays from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

If you parked in the SP+ garage today, please ask a greeter for a voucher sticker.